

Dear Senator Sennes,

Please continue to press for Bill SB916 which is critical to many patients like me who need treatment in Oregon. Please upload my letter to SB916 material/exhibits.

I was diagnosed with lyme disease in 2000, not too long prior to Igenex testing being more known and used for lyme testing. I had a positive Bowen test ordered by the MD in Oregon who has treated me effectively since.

Just prior to this, I also sought help from a rheumatologist for disabling joint pain. His name was Gerald Schoepflin MD. He thoroughly tested me, then gave me a diagnosis that means "multiple inflammatory joint pain" because he admitted he did not know what was wrong. When I did my follow up visit after the test results were in, I had in the meantime also received the positive Bowen lab test and started treatment with antibiotics under another physician. I reported to Dr. Schoepflin my herxheimer response to antibiotics and the positive lab test with copies.

He pulled out a short article to "prove" to me that the Bowen lab tests I had were not reliable, and stated he was the local expert on lyme who taught on this subject at OHSU. I felt he was making fun of me for considering treatment based on such a lab. He said the only thing that gave him some pause to think I might have lyme disease was the herxheimer response I was having to antibiotics. He repeated that he had no treatment options for me when the NSAID he prescribed brought no relief for my joint pain.

I do not know if Dr Schoepflin has harrassed doctors for treating lyme, although soon after this my treating physician changed the nature of his practice and officially does not treat lyme patients. Dr. Schoepflin seemed to be a physician who highly regarded scientifically based laboratory tests and seemed to be thorough in his approach. I think he sincerely believes he is right. However, his belief system and need for scientific proof led him to ignore evidence of lyme disease and be unwilling to treat me for it. The idea that he was training OSHU doctors in diagnosis and treatment of lyme has been extremely troubling to me.

PLEASE make it possible for MDs in Oregon to treat lyme patients under different guidelines such as those from ILADS.

Cheryl Schock